*103. [The questioner (Shri C. Ramachandraiah) was absent. For answer vide page 25.]

Indian approach paper at WTO

*104. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WTO has formally accepted the "Approach Paper" of Government of India outlining the structure and basis for services negotiations;

(b) if so, whether Government is lobbying for acceptance of the contents of this Paper by majority of WTO members; and

(c) by when an intensive package allowing developing countries to have flexibility on opening of services based on the development levels will be cleared by the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India has presented an Issues Paper for discussion among Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) outlining some parameters and guidelines to move forward the Services negotiations. India along with many members has held intensive discussions on these parameters and guidelines with a view to incorporating them in the Hong Kong Ministerial declaration.

(c) The Issues paper presented by India accords primacy to flexibilities available under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) architecture and the Negotiating Guidelines and Procedures adopted in the Council of Trade in Services in 2001. The negotiations are expected to be completed by end 2006.

श्री विजय जे. दर्डा: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी को इस बात के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि वे डब्ल्यूटीओ में हमारा अच्छा प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे हैं...*(व्यवधान)*... मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं, ऐसा मैंने कहा है। मगर मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूं कि वे सेंसेटिव भारतीय कृषि उत्पादों को संरक्षण के संबंध में आने वाली वार्ता में क्या कर रहे हैं? सेवा संबंधी वार्ता के संबंध में मोड-4 ऐक्सेस की मांग भारत उठाता रहा है। यूरोपियन यूनियन तथा अन्य विकसित देश इसका विरोध करते रहे हैं। हौंगकौंग मंत्री स्तरीय वार्ता में इस प्रस्ताव को कौन-कौन से देश संरक्षण दे रहे हैं तथा दक्षिण एशियाई देश विशेष रूप से साफ्टा देशों की इसके बारे में क्या राय है?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the negotiations among various trading partners are continuing and this is the penultimate stage before the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference. It is true that we are interested,

especially, in Mode-1, which is cross-border supply, and in Mode-4, which provides for movement of natural citizens, service providers and business professionals. It would be difficult at this stage to indicate which of the countries would be interested in supporting our concerns about service providers, that is, Mode-4. For instance, the United States of America is hardly moving from the position which they took in Uruguay Round of discussions. I don't think the European Union has also made any forward movement. The Issue Paper which we presented and some of the countries of the Core Group which we constituted the Core Group consists of EU, US, Egypt, China, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Australia, Mexico, Korea, Argentina, Singapore and Chile are in favour of having a forward movement in Mode-4. If one is acquainted with the structure of negotiations in WTO, he knows that everybody would like to have forward movement. But, at the same time, everybody would like to protect his own national interests. It is not easy to reconcile various conflicting interests. Keeping that in view, my colleague, Shri Kamal Nath, who was to reply to this question, is engaged in having negotiations with various countries. We hope it would be possible for us to have some sort of satisfactory solutions or resolutions of the problems in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Sir, while putting my first supplementary, I had asked, "What are the sensitive agricultural products of India which will remain protected in the current negotiations?" But he did not answer this question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I cannot say that whether it will be protected or not. But surely, our concern in the negotiations would be, we would like to protect our vital interests on sensitive agricultural products. There are various rules. When these negotiations take place, we will offer certain things because this is a process or methodology which is being adopted in these negotiations. There are two things, i.e. request and offer. Request means some sort of demand and offer means in response to those demands what we are prepared to concede. Therefore, we are very much interested in protecting sensitive agricultural products, but, of course, within the framework of the guidelines which have been adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rudra Narayan Pany.

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Sir, I have put only one supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put two supplementaries.

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Sir, he did not reply to my first supplementary. I have requested him to reply to my first question.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: सभापति महोदय, जिस तरह से भी हो, भाग्य और संयोग से आज सरकार के एक कद्दावर और बड़े नेता इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न पर उत्तर देने के लिए यहां पर उपस्थित हैं। महोदय, 13 दिसम्बर को दुनिया में एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण घटना हाँगकाँग में घटित होने जा रही है और संयोग से इस देश में, इस पार्लियामेंट में काँग जो है, वह हंग की अवस्था में है, तो मेरा सरकार से यह सीधा प्रश्न है कि आप जो पत्र वहां दुनिया के सामने पढ़ेंगे, उससे पहले आप संसद को विश्वास में लेते हैं या नहीं? संसद के द्वारा उसको अनुमोदित कराते हैं या नहीं और जो मास ऑर्गेनाइज़ेशन्स हैं जैसे भारतीय किसान संघ हो, किसान सभा हो, मजदूर संघ हो ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप क्वेश्चन कीजिए।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: ट्रेड यूनियन हो, इन्होंने आपको सुझाव पत्र दिया है या नहीं? ...(व्यवधान)... महोदय, दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है कि सरकार अपने व्यय से कितने लोगों को इस प्रकार के कन्वेंशन्स के लिए लेती है? अगर सरकार अपने व्यय से कन्वेंशन्स के लिए लोगों को लेती है, तो मजदूर संगठनों से, श्रमिक संगठनों से कितने लोगों को लेती है, कृपा करके यह बताएं।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, बैठिए...बैठिए।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as I understand--in fact, I had discussions with the hon. Commerce Minister-- he will have discussions with the political parties; he will have discussions with the trade union organisations; but it would not have been possible to indicate what stand will be taken exactly and formulate the negotiating strategy with prior approval. No negotiation can take place with prior approval of Parliament. Then, what is there to negotiate? We have to place it. Then, either accept it or reject it because nobody can go beyond the dictate the Parliament. Always there should be some sort of flexibility, but to get a broad consensus and view of various stakeholders, political parties, trade union organisations and farmers' organisations, the Minister has agreed to have discussions with them, and, after his return, he will have discussions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Jethmalani...

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, हम लोगों ने डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. पर ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: राम जेठमलानी का नाम लिया है।

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, बस एक प्रश्न है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: नहीं बाद में ...(व्यवधान)... पहले जेठमलानी, आप बाद में पूछ लीजिएगा, मैं अलाऊ कर दूंगा। श्री राम जेठमलानी।

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, the WTO is a very complex mechanism, and they are on confusing lingo, what is unintelligible to the common man. I do wish to put my supplementary to the hon. Minister in a very simple language. Our very major concern and expectation from the WTO is to achieve the mobility of labour, both skilled and unskilled. And, secondly, now that we are partners in the war against terrorism with the rich nations, particularly, the Americans, how far have we succeeded in convincing the Americans that there is some connection between stoping subsidies to their farmers and to a poor farmer in Pakistan who, due to poverty and due to American policies, is being compelled to send his son to a Wahabi Madarsa, where he becomes a suicide bomber? Now, how far have you succeeded in impressing upon the rich nations about our major concerns and what success have you achieved so far?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the scope of the supplementary is so wide and coming from a very eminent lawyer, a non-practising legal graduate like me cannot comprehend the scope of the supplementary. But, in respect of the improvement of Mode-4, which is, Movement of Natural Persons as Service Providers, there have been broad support to India and its consorts; that is, apart from India, to Brazil, Bangladesh, Chili, Mexico, China, Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka, But, as I mentioned in reply to the very first supplementary, the offer which the U.S.A. has made in respect of Mode-4, is not very encouraging. And, I also mentioned that they are sticking to the position of the Uruguay Round where they were extremely restrictive in respect of movement as service providers. So, there is not much improvement. Or, in other words, if I say in your language, we have not been able to convince the U.S.A to that extent. But let us hope for it because it will go on till end 2006.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I suggest you take me to Hong Kong.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. और इसका किसान से डायरेक्ट संबंध आ रहा है। हमारे यह विदर्भ के कपास के किसान आत्महत्याएं कर रहे हैं। इस संबंध में हमारा यही कहना था कि केंद्र सरकार के अंतर्गत जो इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी है, वह शुगर पर 60% और कपास पर 10% है। आप इसे 60%, 70% तक क्यों नही कर रहे हैं? इसका मतलब यह है कि जब हम परदेसी कपास आयात करते हैं, तो देश में एक बहुत बड़ी लॉबी इस पर काम करती है। किसान आत्महत्या करता है क्योंकि उसे अपने माल की कीमत नहीं मिल रही है। यह जो मेन नीति हम लोग तय करते हैं, इसका

डब्ल्यू.टी.ओ. से जरूरी संबंध है। इसका आप लोगों से संबंध ज्यादा है, क्योंकि आपके पास इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी लगाने का अधिकार है। सभापति जी, कपास का दाम उनको मिलता नहीं है। सभापति जी, जैसाकि केंद्र सरकार ने गन्ने पर 60% ड्यूटी लगाई है वैसे ही आप कापस पर भी 60: ड्यूटी लगाइए।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the flexibility, which is available within the Export-Import Policy and the duty adjustments are concerned, those are always available to the country. I am sure, the Commerce Minister, in consultation with the Finance Minister can do that. I am not going into that aspect. But the broad question of having protection in respect of our sensitive items, negotiations are still on. Therefore, it would be extremely difficult to speak on a particular item, for instance, what would be the position in respect of *kapas*, what would be the position in respect of sugarcane and so on. Unless negotiations are finalised, it would not be possible.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट के ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: मैं एलाऊ नहीं कर रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान)

श्री दत्ता मेघे: मेरा बहुत important question है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: मैं जानता हूं, मैं एलाऊ नहीं कर रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान) मैं जानता हूं कि आपका बहुत important question है, लेकिन question का समाधान यह नहीं होगा ...(व्यवधान) Please take your seat.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: यह इंपोर्ट ड्यूटी की बात है, यह केन्द्र सरकार का अधिकार है। अगर न्याय नहीं मिलेगा, तो हम काहे को सवाल पूछें ...(व्यवधान) यह केन्द्र सरकार का अधिकार है ...(व्यवधान)

डा.मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, 13 दिसम्बर को WTO की Ministerial Conference है, उसके पहले इस सदन में इस विषय पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए। यह ठीक है कि वहां negotiations में यह क्या प्रस्ताव रखेंगे, क्या नहीं रखेंगे, ये बातें तो flexible होती हैं, इसके बारे में मैं सहमत हूं, लेकिन देश की क्या राय है, विभिन्न पार्टियों की क्या राय है, आम जनता की क्या राय है, कौन से issues हैं, जो हमें वहां उठाने चाहिए, इसके बारे में सदन की चर्चा होनी चाहिए। आपने स्वीकृति दी हुई है, Business Advisory Committee ने भी स्वीकृति दी हुई है, इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि यह चर्चा 13 दिसम्बर से पहले हो जानी चाहिए। अगले सप्ताह की शुरूआत में ही यह चर्चा कर लेनी चाहिए ताकि सभी राजनीतिक पार्टियों को और संबंधित लोगों को, जो इसमें interested हैं, जो इसमें stake-holders हैं, उनको अपनी बात यहां रखने का अवसर मिल जाए। उसके बाद negotiations वाले वहां जाकर negotiations करें। हम fixed qnantum निश्चित नहीं

करना चाहते कि आप कितना प्वाइंट, कहां क्या करें, लेकिन हम यह जरूर चाहते हैं कि हमारे जो concerns हैं, वे concerns वहां पर highlight हों और सदन की राय आपके सामने आ जाए, यही मेरा निवेदन है।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as discussion on the floor of the House is concerned, there is a methodology to decide on which subject and how the discussion will take place. I do not think there will be any problem to have discussion either on the floor of the House or with all the political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be better to have discussion with all the political parties. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already indicated that a decision has been taken to have discussions with political parties, with stake-holders including trade unions, farmers' organisations and so on. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, discussion on the floor of the House would be better. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति: वे जैसे भी तय करें, आप कर लीजिए। मैं इसे तय कर लूंगा, लेकिन ज्यादा अच्छा यह होगा कि political parties के representatives अलग से बैठकर बातचीत करें, तो उसके results निकलेंगे।

डा. मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, यह चर्चा स्वीकार हो चुकी है।

श्री सभापति: मैं कह रहा हूं ना? मैं कब मना कर रहा हूं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the situation is little better. Ten years ago I could not open my lid on WTO on the floor of this House, after the Marrakesh Agreement. Today, at least, I could answer some questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Signature campaign against power hike in the Capital

*105. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that signature campaign against power hike in the Capital has taken place demanding withdrawal of recent increase in power tariff;